

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENTS AND  
SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

U.S. Application No.: 10/553,100

Attorney Docket No.: Q90338

**REMARKS**

In response to the Restriction Requirement and Election of Species Office Action of January 14, 2008, Applicant elects Group I, claims 1 - 17, without traverse.

Furthermore, Applicant has preliminarily amended the claims herein, prior to the substantive examination, to cancel claim 1, to place claim 2 in independent form, to cancel claim 9, to add new claims 27 and 28 directed to preferred embodiments, and to amend claims 3, 5, 7, 10 - 15, and 18 to depend on claim 2.

Further regarding the Restriction Requirement, Applicant again notes that independent method claim 18 has been amended to depend on claim 2, and, accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that, pursuant to the Examiner's comments in paragraph 5 bridging pages 4 - 5 of the Office Action, the method claims of Group II are appropriate for rejoinder.

With respect to the election of species requirements in paragraph 6 at pages 5 - 8 of the Office Action, first, claim 9 has been cancelled in favor of new claims 27 and 28, and second, with respect to the species set forth in claim 11, Applicant elects an epoxy group.

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The Examiner is respectfully requested to now proceed with the substantive examination on the merits of claims 2 - 8, 10 - 17, and 27 - 28, and to rejoin and examine the non-elected method claims of Group II.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may facilitate the further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

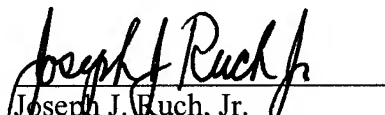
Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

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